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MORE TRICKS FOR AN OLD DOG

Peter R Jensen

Back in February of 1999, I presented a long story about my transition from a paper based personal organiser to one involving electronics, now commonly referred to as a personal digital assistant, PDA. Those who have access to Volume 6, No. 3 of Microcom, (February 1999) can read that one of the attractions of the new PDA was the electronic linking capability to a laptop computer that came with its acquisition. The cable connection came from a previous PDA owned by my daughter that had been stolen at the University.

Since 1999 the pocket organiser (PDA) has contained a long list of things to do, a telephone database of approximately 500 names and addresses and miscellaneous other useful data. As with anything to do with the computer, this has become an indispensable aid to be relied upon. However, fortunately and being a realist, it was backed up to a desktop computer on a consistent basis using the linking software provided. This was just as well as it turned out because, on the most recent overseas trip to the United Kingdom, mysteriously the LCD screen on the organiser became fractured, making the device effectively useless. While I could see that the electronic stuff was still working, only a small part of the display was still visible. About two-thirds of the screen showed that characteristic smear of blue liquid and to my dismay this useful electronic assistant had become just another piece of electronic junk, suitable only for a nostalgic museum display.

Initially, I thought that perhaps it would be possible to discover another PDA of the same brand (Sharp) in one of the second-hand goods suppliers around the city. As I soon discovered, there were any number of PDAs around but the one that I wanted was not in evidence. With this situation came the thought that perhaps a rather more modern device then the second-hand PDA purchased in 1999 might be a good idea, given the advances that have occurred with this type of device since it first appeared in the mid-1990s. However, I concluded that all I really needed was something to store the information in that had been backed up from the old PDA and described above. That is to say, simple and hopefully relatively cheap.

In the event, finding a modern substitute turned out to be almost as difficult as finding the second-hand replacement that I had considered initially. At first I thought I had found the solution in a new Sharp device which operates in a rather similar manner to a modern Palm or IPAQ type unit, with stylus entry via a touch sensitive screen. A mere $80 seemed like a reasonably attractive deal until I had played with this new toy for about a week. I had bought it with the assurance that I would be able to migrate the backup data from the old damaged PDA to the new device but this proved problematic in the extreme.

As I discovered, in order to migrate the data, firstly the stored information had to be converted into an array of data using the comma separated value methodology known as CSV. This turned out to involve a hideous process requiring the data to firstly be exported into an Excel spreadsheet. This was done in order to align the column headings in the old data with those in the new PDA. Once this was organized, the data had to be

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EDITORIAL

Somewhat by accident this issue concentrates on codes and codebreakers, instead of the more usual mix of radio and computer articles. This was partly because nobody sent the editors anything else!

The AGM has come and gone. Sam Burgess and Mayling Hargreaves decided not to stand for the board again as they expect their lives to change during the coming year and may be spending more time away from Sydney. This means that they would most likely not be around when certain returns need to be done. They will be remaining as members. Mayling will remain as co-editor till somebody volunteers or is volunteers.

The Directors for 2003-2004 are: John Innes, Peter Fischer, Peter Jensen, Stephen Kuhl and Warren Storey.

President: Peter Jensen
Vice President: John Innes
Hon Treasurer: Peter Fischer
Secretary: Warren Storey

CHRISTMAS DINNER

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY 8TH DECEMBER.

AT

THE GOLDEN CROWN CHINESE RESTAURANT, MILITARY ROAD, CREMORNE, OPPOSITE THE HAYDEN ORPHEUM CINEMA, AT 7.30PM.

THERE WILL NOT BE A MEETING ON 15 DECEMBER

MORE TRICKS FOR AN OLD DOG - CONT

exported into a CSV file and then opened in Notepad. This allowed the full comma array to be established, whereas Excel did not provide a proper comma separated matrix. The new PDA did not like the Excel version of a CSV file. The Notepad version was OK. A nasty process that really requires no further explanation or elaboration, except that it was partially useful at a later stage when I acquired a better device.

At the end of a week, I decided that the Sharp device represented a giant leap backwards in terms of the technology that it employed and even compared with the PDA I had hoped to replace: I had better think again. This involved recourse to a number of different reference sources, including the consumer magazine Choice and a recent publication relating to PDAs that comes from America. The clear consensus, based on a number of sources, was that the most flexible modern device was likely to be made by a Hewlett-Packard in the IPAQ series. However, as compared with the abortive sharp PDA , I was looking at approximately a tenfold increase in price. Gulp!

At the risk of showing my detachment from the modern value of money, this HP PDA was going to cost approximately double what was paid for my first micro-computer back in 1979: the Ohio Scientific. However what was quite obvious from its specification was that this new device was almost as powerful as a modern laptop although only the size of a shirt front pocket. The wonders of modern technology indeed! So to cut another tale short, I went out and bought an HP IPAQ 2210 PDA – a lovely modern device indeed. The future of computing perhaps and the start of a new stage in ACCA's fortunes?

The "telephone and names / addresses" database that had been rescued from my back-up as a CSV fee file with such pain, was able to be imported into the new PDA reasonably easily as was my extended list of "things to do". The scheduling of appointments and other anticipated events was much shorter and was put in by a "stylus tap", the new manual skill.

As compared with a keyboard, stylus tapping is less than elegant as a data entry method. However, the new device links to the desktop machine or a laptop via linking and synchronising software supplied through the battery charger unit. This software ties together with Microsoft Outlook which allows heavy data entry to be carried out with a conventional keyboard. This by comparison with the stylus is very elegant! The PDA may also allow the use of voice recognition software that I am using for this piece at a later stage. However, the CPU on the PDA is rather slow, 400 mHz, so that may be rather problematic. Conversely, a 333 mHz CPU copes with Via Voice on my desktop machine at home, so who knows.

Having used the new HP device for the best part of a week, I am satisfied that, not only does it happily replicate the functions of the damaged PDA that it replaces but it can do any number of new tricks that will prove extremely useful. In particular, it seems likely that it will be possible to link it to a mobile telephone by infra-red beam and read E-mail direct without the necessity to carry a laptop computer around. This has been my mode of travel for the last 6 or seven years and the Toshiba laptop is no lightweight although relatively a far cry from the venerable, "luggable", Osbourne of yore.

Rather than extolling its virtues in writing, a little "show and tell" of the IPAQ is seen as likely to be a more useful way of exposing this new device to the members of ACCA. This may well be the future of personal Micro-computing with a capacity to give the user a direct connection to the Internet and all the resources that are available through that medium: maybe humanity is about to become enmeshed in a World Wide cyber entity, with individuals having the status of mere neurones in this world intelligence. Stay tuned!

BAD EGGS

Max Burnet

The Australian movie BAD EGGS opened at cinemas yesterday. (*In July - Ed*) It is a crime/corruption/ comedy set in Melbourne featuring the adventures of two very incompetent detectives.

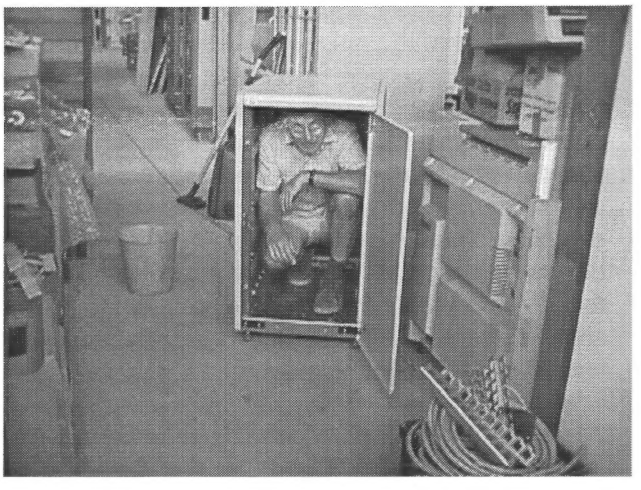
BACK provided the mainframe computer room that features prominently in the middle section of the movie.

Those of you with a techo background might spot a DEC VAX 780, a DEC VAX 8550, a DEC 2020, a Data General Eclipse & Nova, a SUN Sparcstation, a DEC MicroVAX, a Tektronix console and sundry magtape units. All provided from the collections of Burnet Antique Computer Knowhow P/L and the Australian Computer Museum Society Inc.

I was even asked to provide the empty cabinet that is used for the old "trojan horse" trick. Watch for the XL9000, which in a previous life was a DEC HSC-50 star coupler cabinet.The staging director asked for a cabinet that I could fit into - judging me to be the same size as Mick Molloy! The enclosed pic shows me testing it out in the warehouse eighteen months ago in April 2002.

Whether it is a good or bad movie I will leave for you to decide but it does feature local actors such as Bill Hunter, Robyn Nevin and Judith Lucy. But I suggest you see it soon as it might be a short season!

BACK gets a mention in the credits at the end. And for once the computer nerd is the hero of the movie!



HOW TO DESTROY OLD CDS

From UK Telegraph

My company has amassed several hundred outdated CD-R data backup disks, containing sensitive information. Can anyone suggest a simple, safe and environmentally friendly way to make them unreadable, prior to disposal or recycling at the local refuse facility?

You may permanently destroy your CD-R data back-up CDs by scoring them with a sharp-pointed nail or similar tool. Ensure that the scratch is reasonably deep and cuts across the entire disk surface (on the data side). CDs hold their directories on tracks nearest the centre hole. This should prevent anybody, with the possible exception of genuine high-end experts, from being able to access the data.

To render CDs unreadable 'zap' them in a microwave oven. Stack them a few at a time in something like a wooden toast rack and place them in a microwave oven with a glass of water. 'Cook' them on full power for a few seconds, until they are well crazed or until the fireworks stop. It's quite exciting and you get some pretty patterns, but I imagine it could be quite boring if you have several hundred to do. I disclaim any responsibility for any consequences of this procedure.

You can get a mains-powered CD Data Destroyer, which will tackle 15 disks a minute, from Maplin Electronics. It costs £39.99, order code A92AL from www.maplin.co.uk

Buy a pair of tin snips from a tool store or ironmonger, get two containers or bins, and cut each disk in half, throwing one half in one bin and the other half in the other bin. Take them to the disposal location on two separate occasions so they can't be put back together.

Leave them on the parcel shelf of a Ford Orion (I am fairly sure it works with other makes) data side up, and in a few days ultra violet radiation from the sun will make them unreadable.

Pop them in the oven on a baking tray. Gas mark 4 or 180 degC for around 15 minutes should do the trick and the interesting shapes that emerge can be used to create eye-catching mobiles or bird scarers.

HIDDEN TEXT IN COMPUTER DOCUMENTS

From Bruce Schneier Counterpane Cryptography
www.counterpane.com

In the beginning, computer text files were filled with weird formatting commands. (Anyone remember WordStar's dot commands?) Then we had WYSIWYG: What You See Is What You Get. Or, more accurately, what you see on the screen is what you get on the printer. In the beginning, what you saw on the screen what was what was actually in the digital file. With WYSIWYG, what you saw on the screen was not in the digital file; formatting commands remained hidden from view, and the screen looked like the printed page.

WYSIWYG was an huge improvement, because it enabled writers to more easily format documents and see the results of that formatting. But it also brought with it a new security vulnerability: the leakage of information not shown on the screen (or on the printed document). Most of the time it's completely benign formatting information, but sometimes it's actual text. And because the user sees what the printed page looks like, he never even knows that this text is in the file. But someone who is even a little bit clever can recover the text, with embarrassing or even damaging results.

Three examples:

Last month, Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's Director of Communications and Strategy, was in the hot seat in British Parliament hearings explaining what roles four of his employees played in the creation of a plagiarized dossier on Iraq that the UK government published in February 2003. The names of these four employees were found hidden inside of a Microsoft Word file of the dossier, which was posted on the 10 Downing Street Web site for the press. The "dodgy dossier," as it became known in the British press, raised serious questions about the quality of British intelligence before the second Iraq war.

Last year, during the manhunt for the DC sniper, a letter was left for the police by the sniper that included specific names and telephone numbers. Perhaps in order to persuade the panicking public that the police were in fact doing something, they allowed the letter to be published -- in redacted form -- on the Washington Post's Web site. Unfortunately, they implemented the redactions by the completely pointless method of placing black rectangles over the sensitive text in the PDF. A simple script was able to remove these boxes and recover the full PDF.

And three years ago in Crypto-Gram, I told the story of a CIA document that the New York Times redacted and posted as a PDF on its Web site. The document concerned an old Iranian plot, and contained the names of the conspirators. The New York Times redacted the document in the same reversible way that the Washington Post did.

So much for examples. How pervasive is this problem? In a recent research paper, S.D. Byers went out on the Internet to see what sorts of hidden information he could find. He concentrated on Microsoft Word, because Word documents are notorious for containing private information that people would sometimes rather not share. This information includes people who wrote or edited the document (as Blair's government discovered), information about the computers and networks and printers involved in the document, text that had been deleted from the document at some prior time, and in some cases text from completely unrelated documents.

Byers collected 100,000 MS Word documents, at random, from the Web. He built three scripts to look for hidden text, and found it in all documents. Most of it was uninteresting -- the name of the author -- but sometimes it was very interesting. His conclusion was that this problem is pervasive.

MS Word was the subject of Byers's paper, but other data files can leak private information: Excel, PowerPoint, PDF, PostScript, etc. There's no excuse for the companies that own those formats not to create a program that scrubs hidden information from these files. And certainly there's a business opportunity for some third party to create such a scrubber program, but they should be outside the U.S., because it might be a violation of the DMCA to do it. Microsoft's closed proprietary file formats make it harder to write such a scrubber, and unless Microsoft makes some additional changes in its software (e.g. usage and default values), scrubbers will remain an imperfect solution.

Oh, and the press uses techniques like this to unredact stuff all the time. I believe they don't mention it much because they're afraid they'll lose access to all that leaked information.

Continued on page 11

ALEC DAKIN OBITUARY

From Daily Telegraph

Alec Dakin, who has died aged 91, worked during the Second World War as a translator at Bletchley Park; in 1944 he was among the first to read a message that Hitler was dead, although the news turned out to be somewhat premature.

Dakin was recruited by Hugh Last, Professor of Ancient History at Brasenose College, Oxford, to join the staff at Bletchley Park in April 1940. A promising Egyptologist at University College, Oxford, Dakin was fluent in German, and was therefore an obvious candidate for recruitment to "Station X".

He was assigned to "Z watch" in Hut 4, the section responsible for translating German naval signals after they had been decrypted by the codebreakers in Hut 8. Dakin became a "sorter", one of those responsible for identifying which signals were of particular importance for rapid transmission to the Admiralty.

There were few Enigma naval decrypts before September 1941, from which date the German naval Enigma cipher was broken daily. Until then, Dakin and his colleagues worked in shifts studying the masses of teleprinted signals, some in code, others in plain language, picking out the ones that seemed significant.

Dakin's colleague Harry Hinsley had worked out a system of evaluating "linkages" - signals which were repeated by German shore stations in the Baltic which could give warning of German ship movements. If Hinsley was off duty and the shift needed to give him a situation report over the public telephone system, Dakin recalled, they worked out a complex way of giving him news disguised as a cricket commentary.

Notable among the signals that passed across Dakin's desk was one from the Bismarck on May 27 1941: "Most immediate. Torpedo hit right aft. Ship unmanoeuvrable. We fight to the last shell. Long live the Fuhrer." But his most vivid memory was of a night in July 1944 when he was on duty with the head of Hut 4, Walter Ettinghausen (a German Jew, later Walter Eytan, who set up the Israeli Foreign Ministry), and a Scottish Muslim colleague known as Daoud.

A signal arrived from Hut 8. "Some Top Secret signals were reciphered by the sender in another setting," Dakin wrote later. "This one was headed nur durch Offizier zu entziffern ("To be deciphered by officer only") with a special setting of the machine that would mean extra work for Hut 8. It began like this:

OKMMMANANALLEXXEINSATZJWALKUEREJ
NURDURCH-
OFFIZIERZUENTZIFFERNOFFIZIERJDORAJDER
FUEHRERJ-
ADOLFHITLERISTTOTXDERNEUEFUEHRERIST
FELD
MARSCHALLJVONWITZLEBENJusw.

("Naval Headquarters to all. Operation 'Valkyrie'. Officer only. Setting D (Dora) The Fuhrer Adolf Hitler is dead. The new Fuhrer is Field-Marshall von Witzleben, etc' ").

After sending the message to the Admiralty, Dakin and Daoud walked off to their midnight meal in the canteen: "Daoud said: 'Der Lezte Witz seines Lebens!' (The last joke of his life). How strange that the name of Hitler's successor, Witzleben, should mean 'joke-life'," Dakins mused, "and that the first people to see that signal were a Jew, a Scottish Muslim and a Yorkshire Primitive Methodist."

Although Dakin did not know it at the time, the message he had read was the Stauffenberg plotters' premature announcement of a military takeover, following their assassination attempt on Hitler. Unknown to the plotters, Hitler had survived, and by the time Dakin and Daoud went off for their midnight meal, the attempted coup was over and von Stauffenberg and a number of other senior German officers were already dead.

Towards the end of the war, as German cities came under heavy Allied bombing, Dakin confessed to feeling sympathy for the German naval ratings. "A signal would be sent to a ship or U-boat at sea; name and rank would be given, and then the grim words Total ausgebombt ('[your home] has been completely bombed out')."

Alec Dakin was born in the West Riding of Yorkshire on April 3 1912 into a Nonconformist family; his father was a sawmaker. He won scholarships to Heath School, Halifax, and to Queen's College, Oxford, where he read Greats. After graduation, he began to specialise in Egyptology, and in 1936 became a Fellow of University College.

After the war, he decided against returning to Oxford and became a classics master at Kingswood School,

ALEC DAKIN OBITUARY - CONT

Bath, where he remained until his retirement in 1969. For many years he was a housemaster at the school, and was also in charge of athletics.

After his retirement, Dakin ran a bookshop in Bath, became a Samaritan, worked with autistic children and was the first chairman of the National Patient Participation in General Practice. In the 1970s he returned to Egyptology, running a popular course in the subject at the North Bristol Institute.

Like other Bletchley Park hands, Dakin never spoke to anyone of his work, although with Ernest Ettinghausen, Walter's younger brother, he wrote an account of the work of Hut 4 for Foreign Office files.

When he came to write his chapter for Codebreakers (1993), the inside story of Bletchley Park edited by Harry Hinsley and Alan Stripp, he discovered that his earlier account was regarded as so sensitive that he was

ALEC DAKIN OBITUARY

From The Times

Codebreaker who was among the first at Bletchley Park to see the news that Hitler was dead

Alec Dakin looked to have a distinguished career as an Oxford Egyptologist ahead of him when he was recruited in 1940 to work as a cryptographer at Bletchley Park. His work as a translator in the German naval section gave him a unique view of the war at sea from May 1940, when he joined, until 1945 .

Among the brilliant group of colleagues who surrounded him were the papyrologist Eric (later Sir Eric) Turner and Leonard Forster, later Professor of German at Cambridge. In charge of the translators in the section was Walter Ettinghausen, who emigrated to Israel after the war. There, as Walter Eytan, he headed the Foreign Ministry, and in 1957 he took the call from the public prosecutor of the German state of Hesse which informed him that Adolf Eichmann was alive and well in Argentina.

After the war Dakin decided not to resume his career as a Fellow of University College, Oxford. Instead, he became a schoolmaster, returning only at the end of his career to Egyptology, but again with distinction.

The son of a sawmaker his fathers saws were, he said, used to cut the reeds of the Nile he was born in Mytholmroyd in the West Riding in 1912. He won a scholarship to Heath School, Halifax, and another to Queens College, Oxford. There he read Greats and took walks with his fellow Yorkshire scholarship-boy and Nonconformist, Harold Wilson.

With the encouragement of his tutor, Oliver Franks, and the guidance of Professor Battiscombe Gunn, he began the study of Egyptology, and in 1936 he became a Fellow of University College.

As a by-product of his studies he had acquired fluent German, so he was an obvious candidate for recruitment to Bletchley Park. He later described this as the happiest time of his life. He particularly enjoyed the challenge of the early days before the Colossus machine took over the decrypting.

Working in Hut 4, which was responsible for translating the decrypted German naval Enigma signals and processing them for the Admiralty, Dakin often had the job of rapidly identifying which signals were of particular importance. Amid the mass of routine traffic, he recalled such exciting signals as that from the *Bismarck*: Most immediate. Torpedo hit right aft. Ship unmanoeuvrable. We fight to the last shell. Long live the Fuehrer.

Other, more domestic signals from the German Admiralty might dispassionately inform a named and numbered rating on duty aboard a U-boat in the Atlantic that his home, back in Germany, had been *total ausgebombt*. Finally, Dakin was one of the first people to read the message The Fuehrer Adolf Hitler is dead.

Like the other Bletchley Park workers he took an oath of secrecy, and he never spoke to anyone of his war work, not even to his wife, whom he married in 1953. At one point he tried to join the Royal Navy, but he was prevented from doing so on the grounds that he knew too much for the Forces to risk his being captured by the enemy.

With Ernest Ettinghausen, Walters younger brother, he wrote a record of the work of Hut 4 for Foreign Office files. This was regarded as so secret that he was not allowed to consult it himself when he came to write his

ALEC DAKIN OBITUARY - CONT

chapter on the work of Hut 4 for *Codebreakers* (1993), an inside story account of Bletchley Park edited by F. H. Hinsley and Alan Stripp.

After the war he might have returned to his fellowship at Oxford, but instead he took the momentous decision to become a schoolmaster. Having seen so much destruction wreaked upon the civilisation he loved, he thought that he could more directly help to build the world by influencing young people at their most formative stage. In 1946 he joined the staff at Kingswood School, Bath, teaching classics, and he stayed there until his retirement in 1969.

He was for many years a housemaster in the hurly-burly world of a junior house, and was also a highly successful master in charge of athletics. He had a lithe and loping stride and frequently broke into a run as he went about his immensely busy life. With his enthusiasm and patience, his care for the individual, his insatiable curiosity, and his breadth of interest and knowledge he was, like all the best teachers, a walking, often running, advertisement for education. He loved all the arts, had an encyclopaedic memory for poetry in a variety of languages, ancient and modern, and he had the gift of being, in Wordsworths phrase, frequently surprised by joy.

A friend recalled how, if a pupil turned in a shoddy piece of work the look of cosmic dismay on his usually benign face made the errant boy feel that his lapse had short-changed not just the tutor or the school, but the whole of civilisation.

His retirement was busy. He ran a bookshop in Bath for ten years, he became a Samaritan and worked with autistic children, and he was the first chairman of the National Patient Participation in General Practice. In 1972 the *Tutankhamun* exhibition led him back to Egyptology, and he started a flourishing class at the North Bristol Institute. He formed links with the Egyptology community at Oxford and Cambridge and gave papers to the Triennial International Congresses at Munich, Turin, Cairo and Cambridge.

His 90th birthday party was attended by an army of friends from many walks of life. He died two months before his golden wedding anniversary.

He is survived by his wife, Joan, and by his two sons.

Alec Dakin, cryptographer and schoolmaster, was born on April 3, 1912. He died on June 14, 2003, aged 91.

COMPUTERS AND VISION

From UK Telegraph

I have a friend who is going blind. She is unable to see the icons on her PC and finds it difficult to use her programs. She can touch type but is unable to see if she has made a mistake. Do you know of a program that will input a magnifier onto her screen that will enable her to see the icons and be able to use the start menu?

All versions of Windows come with a simple Screen Magnifier utility, though it is not normally installed by default on Windows 9x (95/98/SE/ME). To do that go to Add/Remove programs in Control Panel, click the Windows Setup tab, double click Accessibility then check the item Accessibility tools, click OK and follow the prompts.

The Windows XP magnifier is a little more sophisticated, to switch it on go to Start > All Programs > Accessories > Accessibility > Magnifier; there's a detailed user guide on the Microsoft web site at:
http://www.microsoft.com/enable/training/windowsxp/usingmagnifier.aspx
The Windows magnifiers are a little basic but there's plenty of more advanced shareware and freeware programs available and the best place to start looking is the Screen Magnifier's homepage at:
http://www.magnifiers.org/main2.shtml

CODEBREAKER REVEALS A DIARIST TO RIVAL PEPYS

From UK Telegraph

A Puritan's journal written in cryptic shorthand to foil the King's men paints a vivid picture of 1600s London, reports Will Bennett

A remarkable million-word account of life in late 17th century England which is as vivid as Samuel Pepys's diary has been transcribed by experts after lying largely forgotten for more than three centuries.

A specialist code-breaker was brought in to crack the shorthand that Roger Morrice, a Puritan minister turned political journalist, used in part of the diary to stop the King's agents reading it.

While Pepys's often hedonistic diary was long regarded as the most detailed record of life in Restoration England, Morrice's more strait-laced Entring Book gathered dust in a little-known British library.

The Entring Book was acquired by Dr Williams's Library in London, which specialises in the history of English Nonconformist churches, in the early 18th century and it remained there until a few years ago.

Then a team of academics based at Cambridge University launched a project to transcribe the diary, which covers the years 1677 to 1691 and presents an entirely different view of late 17th century England from that of Pepys.

Now the transcription has been completed and six volumes of Morrice's well-informed account of a turbulent period during which England was ruled by three different monarchs will be published in 2005.

About 40,000 words of the diary were in code and the team, led by the Cambridge academic Dr Mark Goldie, brought in an expert in 17th century shorthand to reveal for the first time what Morrice had written.

"At that time you could be arrested for sending newsletters and information around the country and so he did not want Charles II's and James II's agents to see what he had written," said Dr Goldie.

The shorthand expert, Dr Frances Henderson, from Oxford, not only cracked the code but discovered the names of some of Morrice's contacts, whose names he had written in cipher to protect their identities.

Then, as now, journalists had government sources, and Dr Henderson found that Morrice got much of his information from a man called Collins, an official at the Privy Council who was prepared to leak information to him.

As a convinced Puritan, Morrice was extremely critical of what he saw as the moral laxity of Restoration England. He described Tunbridge Wells, then a fashionable spa patronised by royalty, as "the most debauched town in the kingdom".

With evident approval, he reported the reaction of Ben Haddi Mor, the Moroccan ambassador to London, when some Englishmen urged the diplomat to "receive a whore into his bed".

"He said to our great rebuke and shame, 'My religion forbids whores, does not yours?'," wrote Morrice. "He said 'that when I come home I shall then be counted a liar in my own country for my master will not believe me that so many ladies came open-faced with bare breasts to see me'."

In the winter of 1683-84 the Thames froze so hard that coaches travelled across the ice, an ox was roasted and bullbaiting and other sports were held on the river's surface.

"The concourse and all manner of debauchery upon the Thames continued upon Lord's day and Monday the 3rd and 4th of this instant," wrote Morrice disapprovingly.

Morrice used one of his sources to get information about the birth of James Stuart, the Catholic heir to James II and later the Old Pretender.

"The child was a large full child in the head and the upper parts but not suitably proportioned in the lower parts," wrote Morris scathingly, appalled by the prospect of another Catholic monarch.

However, just a few months later Prince William of Orange's troops marched into London and installed the Protestant Dutchman as William III.

Morrice wrote that women "shook his soldiers by the hand as they came by and cried, 'Welcome, welcome, God bless you, you came to redeem our religion, laws,

BURGLED BY E-MAIL

by FindaProperty

Inventive burglars have found a new way to target vacant homes - "out of office" e-mail messages used by workers on holiday....

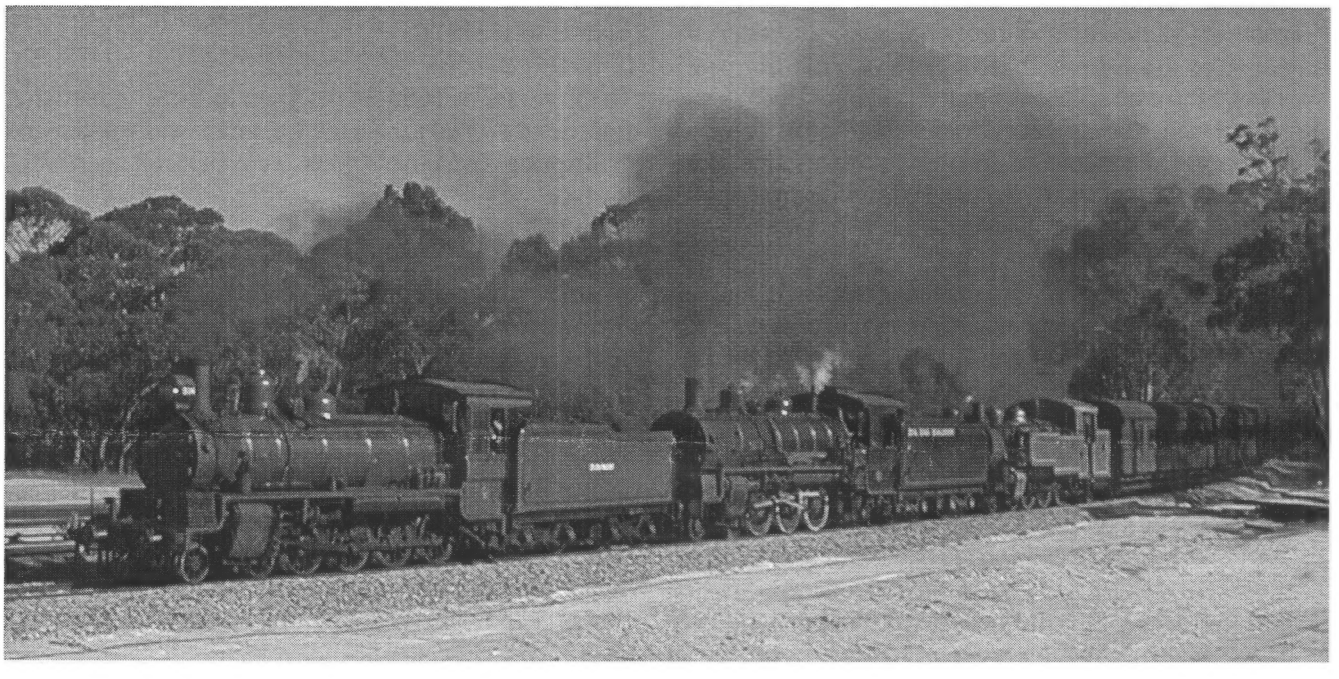
The "out of office" message is an automatic mail sent from workers' mail addresses when they are away on holidays. And to burglars this means an empty house waiting to be burgled. But how do they get from an e-mail to your property?

According to the technology industry body the Corporate IT Forum, some of its 120 members have reported that criminals are buying up lists of e-mail addresses to find out details of holiday absences.

The information in the e-mail can then be cross-referenced with publicly available data to find out the sender's home addresses. A spokesman for the Corporate IT Forum said: "To be honest it is very hard to trace it back to e-mail messages but it is a very real issue."

Corporate IT Forum Chief Executive, David Roberts, added: "You wouldn't go on holiday with a note pinned to your door saying who you were, how long you were away for and when you were coming back so why would you put this in an e-mail."

The company is now advising workers not to say they are going on holiday, and not to put their job title or home address in their out of office reply. Messages should be as bland as possible and redirect enquiries to a colleague's business phone number.



STEAM LOCOMOTIVES 934, 1072 AND 1049 AT THE ZIG ZAG RAILWAY, LITHGOW, AT THE RECENT STEAM UP 2003.

There are no computers involved in their running except for recording their maintenance. The picture looks much better in colour, so those of you who receive this by email will see it in its full glory.

HUMOUR

Australian Outback IT Definitions

Log On - Make the barbie hotter
Log Off - Don't add any more wood
Monitor - Keeping an eye on the barbie
Download - Get the firewood off the ute
Floppy Disc - What you get lifting too much firewood at once
Windows - What you shut when it's cold
Screen - What you shut in the mozzie season
Byte - What mozzies do
Bit - What mozzies did Mega
Byte - What Townsville mozzies do
Chip - A bar snack
Micro Chip - What's left in the bag after you have eaten the chips
Modem - What you did to the lawns
Dot Matrix - Old Dan Matrix's wife
Laptop - Where the cat sleeps
Software - Plastic knives and forks you get at Red Rooster
Hardware - Real stainless steel knives and forks from K Mart
Mouse - What eats the grain in the shed
Mainframe - What holds the shed up
Web - What spiders make
Web Site - The shed or under the verandah
Cursor - The old bloke that swears a lot
Search Engine - What you do when the ute won't go
Upgrade - A steep hill
Server - The person at the pub that brings out the counter lunch
Mail Server - The bloke at the pub that brings out the counter lunch
User - The neighbor who keeps borrowing things
Network - When you have to repair your fishing net
Internet - Complicated fish net repair method
Netscape - When a fish maneuvers out of reach of net
Online - When you get the laundry hung out
Off Line - When the pegs don't hold the washing up

Viruses to Beware

THE GEORGE BUSH Virus.. (Causes your computer to think it won the election, even though the motherboard and fatherboard bought it.)
THE AL GORE Virus... (Causes your computer to just keep counting.)
THE CLINTON Virus... (Gives you a Hard Drive with NO memory.)
THE BOB DOLE (AKA: VIAGRA) virus... (Makes a new hard drive out of an old floppy.)
THE RONALD REAGAN virus... (Saves your data, but forgets where it is stored.)
THE JESSE JACKSON virus... (Warns you constantly about illegitimate file reproduction, while illegitimately reproducing files in the background.)
THE MIKE TYSON virus... (Quits after two bytes.)
THE OPRAH WINFREY virus... (Your 300 mb hard drive shrinks to 100 mb, then slowly expands to re-stabilize around 200mb.)
THE JACK KEVORKIAN virus... (Deletes all old files.)
THE PROZAC virus... (Totally screws up your RAM, but your processor doesn't care.)
THE JOEY BUTTAFUOCO virus... (Only attacks minor files.)
THE ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER virus.. (Terminates some files, leaves, but will be back.)
And last but not least....
THE LORENA BOBBITT virus... (Reformats your hard drive into a 3.5 inch floppy, then discards it through Windows.)

HIDDEN TEXT - CONT FROM P. 5

Byers's research paper:
<http://www.user-agent.org/word_docs.pdf>

Tony Blair - inadvertent info left in MS Word files:
<http://www.computerbytesman.com/privacy/blair.htm>

The DC sniper letter:
<http://www.planetpdf.com/mainpage.asp?webpageid=2434>

DC sniper letter in redacted form:
<http://www.user-agent.org/washpost_sniperletter.pdf>

Same letter, unredacted:
<http://www.user-agent.org/washpost_unredacted.pdf>

The CIA and a redacted PDF file:
<http://www.counterpane.com./crypto-gram-0007.html#1>

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ACCA WEB PAGE IS AT:

http://www.zeta.org.au/~richardm/RadioClubs/acca/

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR ACCA

VENUE FOR MEETINGS.

Kirribili Ex-Service Club, Cliff Street, Milsons Point, 7.30pm

Monday, 8 December - At golden Crown Chinese Restaurant, Cremorne, opposite Haydon Orpheum Cinema

Monday, 19 January 2004

Monday, 16 February

Members can meet before the main discussion for a meal 6.30pm. The meeting will start at 7.30pm.

What are your suggestions for meeting places?

Contact via email or ring Peter on 02 9960 1486

MICROCOM EDITORIAL POLICY

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